

**Probation Services Task Force
Roundtable Discussion Notes
California State Association of Counties Legislative Conference
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Task Force Members/Staff:

Justice Patricia Bamattre-Manoukian, Denny Bungarz, Michael Johnson, Audrey Evje, Elizabeth Howard, Rubin Lopez, Maureen O'Neil

Approximate No. of Participants: 50

Themes:

- *Relationship between BOS and courts – needs to improve*
- *Need for stable funding*
- *Need for administrative training for judges*
- *Importance of prevention rather than incarceration*
- *Need for integrative computer systems*
- *Need to streamline funding and administration of probation*

CAO

- Need to get probation officers into prevention; AB 1913 helps, but they are funded by the General Fund unless they collaborate.
- Getting new Juvenile Hall in 60 days – want to do programs in the hall
- Would like to see the task force weigh in on the importance of prevention vs. incarceration
 - Probation officers should be in schools, visiting homes (along with Social Services and Mental Health)

Supervisor

- Probation has a good relationship with the courts – the courts select the CPO but the BOS has veto power; system works well
- Issues: Funding, caseloads
- Building \$65 million new JH facility – issue of how to staff with qualified people
- Difficult to recruit and retain probation officers
- Prop 36 impacts: hope will provide infrastructure for prevention

Supervisor

- Sees cooperation between agencies

- Social Services and Mental Health work with Probation to get better results

Supervisor

- Judges and BOS never meet together – this is troublesome; on mental health issues they meet with juvenile judges
- Confidentiality issues
- Technology – need to integrate; DPO should be able to look in one place for all information related to a family

Supervisor

- BOS has budget control of probation, but no responsibility because the court requires/demands something different; the courts have no budget control
- New 70-bed JH facility being constructed; need information on how to staff
 - There is not a great deal of trust or information sharing between agencies
- Problem: Grant funding
 - Impossible to hire FTEs if continued funding is not guaranteed
 - Need for more stable funding
- Probation Department based on law enforcement model – shouldn't be.
- Judges not engaged with BOS

Supervisor

- If we keep building facilities, does that mean that they will keep being filled?
 - In their county, the goal is to keep kids in the home, build services around kids.
 - Planned to rent out extra beds in their JH when it was constructed, but now it is completely full.

Supervisor

- There has recently been a shift in paradigm with the increase in drug courts and the passage of Prop 36
 - Need to expand probation's scope
 - Need to rename probation department?

Supervisor

- Tulare has a rocky relationship with the courts

- Lack of administrative capabilities at the court level
- Have a good CPO, works well with CAO
- Since Trial Court funding, the courts are independent of the counties
- Appointment model: Have looked at commission/joint appointment model, in which the BOS, the CAO, and the PJ and Juvenile PJ would jointly appoint and terminate the CPO, but so far it has been opposed.
- Have just built a \$34 million Juvenile Justice facility
- Need to stress the importance of prevention, since it costs almost as much to run an unoccupied Juvenile Hall as an occupied one.

CPO

- Have had much success privatizing electronic monitoring services
 - Have successfully reduced banked caseload from 5,000 to 1,000
 - Cost savings huge – offenders pay for monitoring service, the county supervises the service.
- Have a 210-bed facility with open beds, so sold 60 beds to the INS – created \$3.4 million in revenue
- Probation needs to “think outside the box”

Supervisor

- Probation has been whipsawed
 - Will meet with Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council to establish goals jointly on budget/appointment issues, what probation officers should do
- Need to train probation officers
- PJ and Juvenile PJ very cooperative
- Would like to see automation and technological innovation – no more writing on 3x5 cards